THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI VIDYA CHARAN SHUKLA): (a) No, Sir.

(b) During the VII Plan 18 major and 151 medium projects have been completed.

(c) A potential of 12.9 million ha. was targetted for the Seventh plan period against which the achievement has been 12.21 million hectares.

(d) The percentage of utilisation of potential created has been about 88.5.

Declaration of river valley schemes as "National Projects"

*129. SHRI S. S. AHLUWALIA: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have decided to declare certain river valley schemes as National Projects to be financed by the Central Government and implemented by the States;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof;

(c) whether any such scheme is likely to be declared as a National Project in Bihar; and

(d) if so, what are the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI VIDYA CHARAN SHUKLA): (a) to (d) For the expeditious completion of certain important ongoing river valley projects in the country there has been a proposal to categories such projects as national projects and to provide special Central assistance for their early completion. It has been estimated that about Rs. 750 crores would be required during the VIII Plan period from the Central Plan for such projects.

In the projects proposed for such consideration, the inter-State projects, namely, Bansagar and Subernarekha projects in which the State of Bihar is involved and two other projects of Bihar namely, Western Kosi Canal and Bagmati Projects are included.

National Urban Transport Policy

*130. SHRI GHUFRAN AZAM:
SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA:

Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are considering a proposal to formulate a national urban transport policy in view of rapid urbanisation;

(b) if so, what are the details in this regard;

(c) whether Government also propose to make elaborate change in the Urban Transport system; and

(d) if so, what are the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI SHEILA KAUL): (a) to (d) The direct responsibility of the Government of India in the area of urban transportation is limited to Union Territories without a Legislature. While proposals are under consideration for improving the urban transportation system in Delhi, there are no proposals, at present, for formulating a National Urban Transport Policy. Improvement in the Urban Transportation System has to be location specific depending on the character and head of each urban centre.

Plan for desilting of Dams

*131. DR. NARREDDY THULASI REDDY: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to formulate a National Plan for desilting the dams and rivers in the country to combat floods; and

(b) if so, what are the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI VIDYA CHARAN SHUKLA): (a) There is no such proposal at present as desilting of reservoirs is not considered an effective measures to control floods. No doubt some silting does take place in the space allocated in a re-